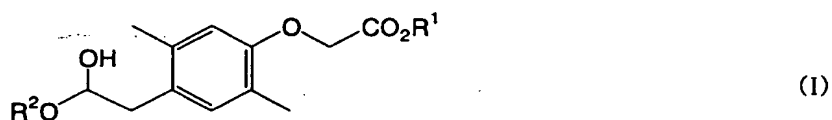


**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

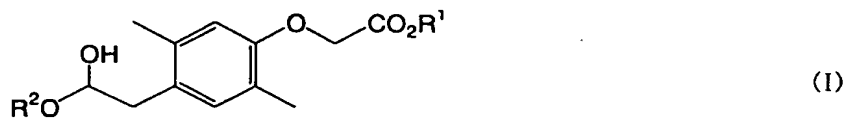
1. (original): A compound represented by general formula (I):



wherein each of  $R^1$  and  $R^2$  is independently a lower alkyl group.

2. (original): The compound according to claim 1, wherein  $R^1$  and  $R^2$  are an ethyl group.

3. (original): A process for preparing a compound represented by general formula (I):



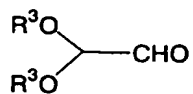
wherein each of  $R^1$  and  $R^2$  is independently a lower alkyl group,  
which comprises the steps of

- (a) treating a compound represented by formula (II):



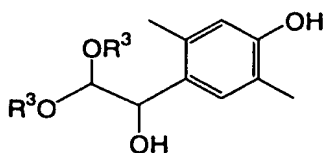
with a compound represented by general formula (III):

# PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT



(III)

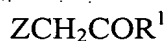
wherein R<sup>3</sup> is a lower alkyl group, to form a compound represented by general formula (IV):



(IV)

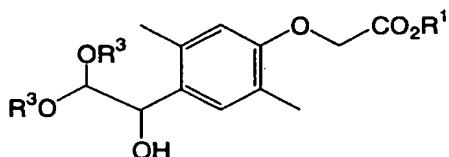
wherein R<sup>3</sup> is as defined above;

(b) treating said compound represented by general formula (IV) with a compound represented by general formula (V):



(V)

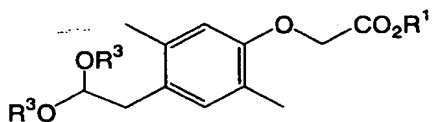
wherein Z is a chlorine, bromine or iodine atom, and R<sup>1</sup> is as defined above, to form a compound represented by general formula (VI):



(VI)

wherein R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> are as defined above;

(c) reducing said compound represented by general formula (VI) to form a compound represented by general formula (VII):

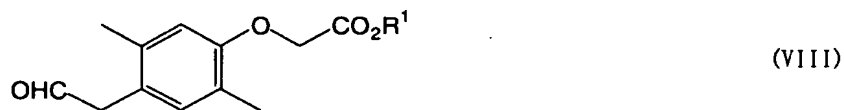


(VII)

wherein R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> are as defined above;

## PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

(d) hydrolyzing said compound represented by general formula (VII) to form a compound represented by general formula (VIII):



wherein  $R^1$  is as defined above; and

(e) treating said compound represented by general formula (VIII) with  $R^2$ -OH wherein  $R^2$  is as defined above.

4. (original): The process according to claim 3, wherein  $R^1$  and  $R^2$  are an ethyl group, and  $R^3$  is a methyl group.

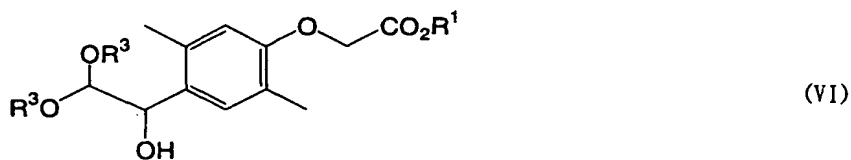
5. (original): A compound represented by general formula (IV):



wherein  $R^3$  is a lower alkyl group.

6. (original): The compound according to claim 5, wherein  $R^3$  is a methyl group.

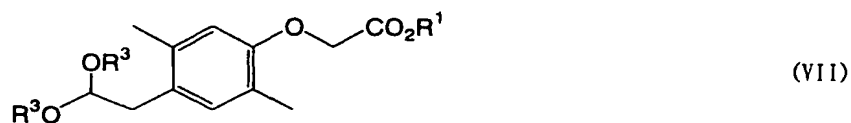
7. (original): A compound represented by general formula (VI):



wherein each of  $R^1$  and  $R^3$  is independently a lower alkyl group.

## PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

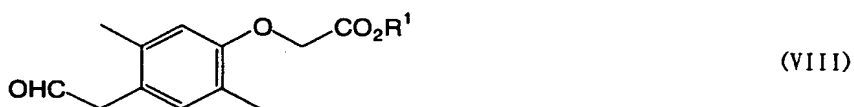
8. (original): A compound represented by general formula (VII):



wherein each of R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> is independently a lower alkyl group.

9. (currently amended): The compound according to ~~claims 7 or 8~~ claim 7, wherein R<sup>1</sup> is an ethyl group, and R<sup>3</sup> is a methyl group.

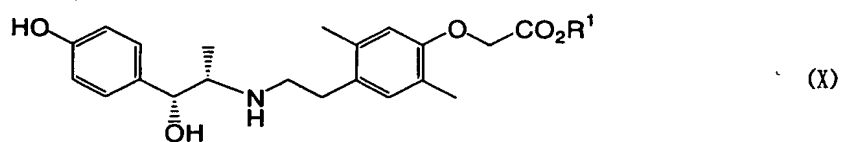
10. (original): A compound represented by general formula (VIII):



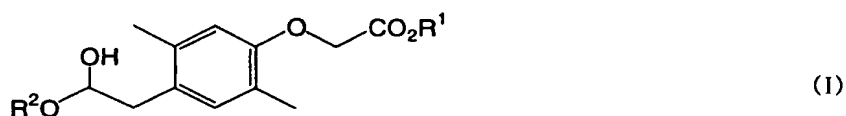
wherein R<sup>1</sup> is a lower alkyl group.

11. (original): The compound according to claim 10, wherein R<sup>1</sup> is an ethyl group.

12. (original): A process for preparing a compound represented by general formula (X):



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein R<sup>1</sup> is a lower alkyl group, which comprises the step of treating a compound represented by general formula (I):



## PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

wherein  $R^1$  is as defined above, and  $R^2$  is a lower alkyl group, with a compound represented by formula (IX):



in the presence of a reducing agent, and thereafter optionally forming a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of said compound (X).

13. (original): The process according to claim 12, wherein  $R^1$  and  $R^2$  are an ethyl group.

14. (new): The compound according to claim 8, wherein  $R^1$  is an ethyl group, and  $R^3$  is a methyl group.